

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA  
3RD DISTRICT, ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES  
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE  
WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY AND  
SECONDARY EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS  
Co-CHAIR

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0307**

WEBSITE: <http://grijalva.house.gov/>

1511 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone (202) 225-2435 | Fax (202) 225-1541

101 W. Irvington Rd., BLDG. 4  
Tucson, AZ 85714  
Phone (520) 622-6788 | Fax (520) 622-0198

146 N. State Ave.  
P.O. Box 4105  
Somerton, AZ 85350  
Phone (928) 343-7933 | Fax (928) 343-7949

1412 N. Central Ave., Suite B  
Avondale, AZ 85323  
Phone (623) 536-3388 | Fax (623) 535-7479

FACEBOOK: [Facebook.com/Rep.Grijalva](https://www.facebook.com/Rep.Grijalva)  
TWITTER: [Twitter.com/RepRaulGrijalva](https://twitter.com/RepRaulGrijalva)  
INSTAGRAM: [Instagram.com/RepRaulGrijalva](https://www.instagram.com/RepRaulGrijalva)

April 20, 2018

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway  
Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Conaway and Ranking Member Peterson,


As member of the Education and Workforce Committee, I write to you today to express my opposition to provisions related to nutrition assistance programs outlined in the *Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018*. Historically, the Farm Bill has been a model of bipartisanship that has included vital programs to keep some of our most vulnerable and poorest families out of poverty. Instead, this bill goes far from providing the much needed improvements to child nutrition, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the collaborative effort of delivering a bipartisan bill that benefits farm workers, working families, the elderly and disabled, and most importantly, the children of this country who require adequate nutrition in order to grow healthy and be productive citizens.

I am alarmed at the number of changes put forth in an attempt to force people out of SNAP and at the cruelty of pushing more vulnerable Americans into the grasps of poverty. This partisan proposal will cut benefits for millions of Americans by imposing duplicative work requirements, decimating the school lunch program and adding bureaucracy into the eligibility processes. The mere thought of proposing that states will now have to create new job training and employment programs, which already exist, is bad policy and runs counter to the evidence-based approach in policy making. And forcing states to use impracticable eligibility systems will only add costs and confusion.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, over 16 percent of households with children experience some form of food insecurity. In my state of Arizona, nearly 1 million people benefit from SNAP each month and half of the beneficiaries are children. According to the Association of Arizona Food Banks nearly 156,000 people in my district alone live in poverty, 1 in 3 children experience food insecurity and the poverty rate is a striking 20 percent. The proposed cuts will not only disproportionately harm my district, but they will negatively impact Arizona's economy as SNAP currently generates more than \$1.8 billion in economic activity throughout Arizona each and every month.

SNAP has demonstrable success in improving the health and wellbeing of children, adults, and seniors. It has lifted millions of Americans out of poverty and continues to be one of America's most important anti-hunger/anti-poverty programs. I urge you to work in a bipartisan manner to remedy this bill prior to floor consideration. The historic balance of past farm legislation created overwhelming support in Congress. This needless marginalizing of poor people and increasing hunger destroys this balance of interests and jeopardizes the Farm Bill.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress